

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00

OMB-01 IO-10 SCA-01 EURE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

ACDA-05 NEA-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 FEAE-00 /105 W

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P R 101155Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9007

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 2641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN TO PRAGUE

SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN VISITED PRAGUE
OCT 8-10. HE HAD MEETINGS WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ZAHRADNIK, FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK, DEPUTY FOREIGN
TRADE MINISTER JAKUBEC, AND EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS WITH
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL. HARTMAN STRESSED NEED
TO IMPROVE PUBLIC ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIONS AS AID TO
OUR ABILITY TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO BETTER RELATIONS.

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CZECHOSLOVAKS SHOWED DISAPPOINTMENT AT CONTINUED BLOCK

TO TRADE RELATIONS BUT THEY STATED THEIR WISH TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE LIMITED WAYS POSSIBLE DESPITE THESE PROBLEMS. BOTH SIDES TREATED THE VISIT AS A LOGICAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CHNOUPEK AT HELSINKI. HARTMAN STRESSED THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS DOING ITS BEST TO OVERCOME THE CLAIMS PROBLEMS - INCLUDING AN INTENT TO SEEK DISMISSAL OF THE LATEST LAWSUIT DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOLD - AND REITERATED THE SECRETARY'S POSITION AT HELSINKI THAT THE US SIDE INTERPOSED NO OBJECTIONS TO BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS. HARTMAN NOTED SUCH PROBLEMS AS NEGATIVE CZECH PRESS TREATMENT OF US AFFAIRS AND URGED BROADER CONTACTS AND A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A GOOD BILATERAL ATMOSPHERE SO AS TO FACILITATE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. HARTMAN SAID RE SPECIFIC STEPS: (A) US SIDE WAS READY TO BEGIN TALKS ON CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE, AND WOULD PRESENT NEW DRAFT WITHIN A WEEK; (B) US SIDE PORPOSED MUTUAL ABOLITION CLOSED AREAS; (C) HE HOPED SPACIL OR OTHER MFA OFFICIAL COULD PAY RETURN VISIT TO US. END SUMMARY

1. CZECHOSLOVAK TREATMENT OF HARTMAN VISIT, INCLUDING FRONT-PAGE STORIES OCT 9 AND 10 IN RUDE PRAVO AND FULL RANGE OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS, WAS SIMILAR TO THAT USUALLY GIVEN FOREIGN MINISTERS. CZECHS MADE IT CLEAR THAT DESPITE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER NON-FULFILLMENT OF CLAIMS AGREEMENT, THEY CONTINUED TO WANT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

2. FOR HIS PART, HARTMAN SAID US SIDE RECIPROCATED THIS DESIRE, AS THE SECRETARY HAD SAID IN HELSINKI TO CHNOUPEK, BUT PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS AND CLAIMANTS WOULD TAKE TIME TO WORK OUT; MEANWHILE, IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO LET ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE. IN THIS CONNECTION HARTMAN MENTIONED TO SPACIL: (A) HARM DONE BY UNFAVORABLE PRESS TREATMENT OF US; (B) SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH US VIEWED UNFRIENDLY CSSR ATTITUDE ON SUCH MATTERS AS PUERTO RICAN VOTE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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UN; (C) US CONCERN ABOUT SHABBY TREATMENT OF PANAM IN PRAGUE (STATE 237524).

3. CZECH SIDE (BOTH SPACIL AND FONMIN CHNOUPEK) RAISED DIVIDED FAMILY PROBLEM, RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE US PLACED ON IT. SPACIL SAID THERE WERE SOME "HARD-CORE" PROBLEMS, BUT MANY OTHERS WERE MAINLY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND WOULD BE SOLVED: HE

SAID "WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS TO YOU AND WE ARE WORKING ON IT." CHNOUPEK SAID PLAINLY THAT IMPROVED BILATERAL REALATIONS (AS FOR EXAMPLE BETWEEN CSSR AND AUSTRIA) FACILITATED ACTION ON DIVIDED FAMILIES. HARTMAN DISCUSSED IMPORTANCE OF SUBJECT IN BILATERAL AND IN CSCE CONTEXT, AND SAID US DID NOT EXPECT OVERNIGHT SOLUTION TO ALL CASES BUT STRONGLY NEEDED TO SEE FAVORABLE TREND.

4. CZECHS WELCOMED HARTMAN STATEMENT THAT CHARGE WOULD PESENT NEW DRAFT OF CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT WITHIN WEEK OR SO, AND CHNOUPEK SAID CZECHS WERE WILLING TO START FORMAL TALKS AS SOON AS US SIDE WAS. IN TYPICAL BLUNT CHNOUPEK FASHION, HE SHORT-CIRCUITED CZECH POSITION SEEKING TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS AND SAID IF US CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THEY COULD LIVE WITH ONE AGREEMENT. (ALLUDING HOWEVER TO LEONARD MARKS' MENITON OF US DESIRE FOR "LIBRARY" IN PRAGUE--I.E. CULTURAL CEN-TER--HE SAID THIS WAS STILL FAR OFF.)

5. HARTMAN TOLD ALL HIS INTERLOCUTERS ABOUT PROBLEMS CAUSED BY CZECH PRESS. CHNOUPEK WAS FRANKEST IN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PROBLEM EXISTED--CLAIMING THAT "EXTREMISM BEGETS EXTREMISM"--AND IN TYING BETTER PRESS TO BETTER RELATIONS. HARTMAN STRESSED THAT BETTER ATMOSPHERE HAD TO PRECEDE, NOT FOLLOW, BETTER RELATIONS. HARTMAN ALSO RAISED ISSUE OF VISAS FOR VISITING US JOURNALISTS, TYING THIS IN ALSO WITH CSCE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO HARTMAN'S PROBE ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION AND CONGEN BRATISLAVA, CHHNOUPEK SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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CZECHOLSOLVAKS WERE WILLING TO GO AHEAD ON FORMER, BUT STILL FELT LATTER HAD TO AWAIT SOME IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS (I.E. PROGRESS ON CLAIMS OR MFN).

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00 FRB-03

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ACDA-05 NEA-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 FEAE-00 /105 W

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P R 101155Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9008

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAGUE 2641

7. DISCUSSION OF LONG-GRAVEL AND CLAIMS WAS WITHOUT RANCOR, ALTHOUGH ALL CZECH SPOKESMEN CONTINUED TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE. HARTMAN OFFERED LITTLE CONCRETE NEWS EXCEPT TO SAY EXECUTIVE BRANCH WOULD FIGHT NEW LAWSUIT (SEEKING TO ATTACH GOLD) VIGOROUSLY. MFA SPOKESMEN SAID SOLEMNLY THAT IF THIS WERE TO SUCCEED, IT WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS MATTER.

8. HARTMAN STATED US WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED WITH MUTUAL ABOLITION OF CLOSED AREAS. CHNOUPEK SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS WAS US INSTITUTION AND CZECHOSLOVAKS WELCOMED ITS END.

9. BOTH SPACIL AND CHNOUPEK RAISED QUESTION OF 14-DAY NOTICE FOR CSSR SHIPS INTO US PORTS. HARTMAN PROMISED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE AMELIORATION.

10. CZECHS WELCOMED HARTMAN'S STATEMENT THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE USEFUL AND THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR SPACIL (OR SOME OTHER OFFICIAL) TO VISIT WASHINGTON TO PURSUE SUBJECT DISCUSSED FURTHER. CHNOUPEK REITERATED THAT RECALL OF AMBASSADOR SPACIL LAST MAY WAS "PURELY TECHNICAL, NOT IN LEAST POLITICAL, AND WHOLLY MY FAULT," AND PROMISED NEW AMBASSADOR SOON. HARTMAN SAID US DELAY IN NAMING SUCCESSOR TO SHERER WAS SOLELY IN ORDER TO FIND BEST MAN, AND NEW APPOINTMENT WOULD BE COMING, HE HOPED, BEFORE LONG.

11. HARTMAN INITIATED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF CSCE, STRESSING IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO SOUND IMPLEMENTATION AND DEPLORING PRESS ATTACKS ON RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED NATO MANEUVERS. (RE MANEUVERS, SPACIL SAID THEY WERE "NOT INTERESTED IN SENDING OBSERVERS NOW, BUT WILL LATER, AND YOU WILL SEND THEM HERE TOO.") SPACIL STRESSED NEED TO IMPLEMENT ALL PARTS OF FINAL ACT. HARTMAN AND SPACIL ALSO DISCUSSED CURRENT MBFR SITUATION.

12. IN OTHER MULTILATERAL TOPICS, HARTMAN LAID OUT US POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST AND ON CYPRUS. WITH JAKUBEC AND ZAHRADNIK, WHERE BULK OF DISCUSSION WAS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, HARTMAN ALSO DISCUSSED WORLD ECONOMIC PICTURE (ESPECIALLY RE ENERGY) AND US POLICY TOWARDS IT.

13. DURING ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, CZECHS SAID DECREE PERMITTING FOREIGN FIRMS TO OPEN OFFICES IN CSSR WAS TO BE ISSUED SOON, ALTHOUGH PROVIDING SUITABLE SPACE WAS STILL A SERIOUS PROBLEM. BOTH SIDES WELCOMED FORTHCOMING SIGNING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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US-CSSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGREEMENT IN NEW YORK, OCT 17.

14. IMPORT OF HARTMAN VISIT WAS PERHAPS BEST SUMMED UP OH CHNOUPEK WHEN HE SAID THERE WERE "TREMENDOUS RESERVES IN OUR RELATIONS," AND HE HOPED THAT HARTMAN'S STOP IN PRAGUE, FOLLOWING UP ON HIS OWN MEETING IN HELSINKI, WITH THE SECRETARY, WOULD HELP PUT US IN A BETTER POSITION TO TAP THSE RESERVES.

16. MEMCONS FOLLOW.
PERRY

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